

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 OES-06
TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 /123 W
-----121940Z 020983 /44

O P 121609Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2721
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 196
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON SIX
COM THREE FOUR MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 0130

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JANUARY 11-12

REF: BEIRUT 0107 (DTG 101509Z JAN 77)
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1. SUMMARY. THE COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS TO MEET THE
MIDNIGHT JAN 12 DEADLINE IS ALLEGEDLY CONTINUING WITHOUT INCIDENT.
MILITIAS OF THE LEBANESE FRONT, EXCEPT FOR THE GUARDIANS OF
THE CEDAR WHO WITHDREW FROM THE UNIFIED COMMAND, ARE TURNING OVER
THEIR WEAPONS TO THE LEBANESE ARMY RIGHTIST FACTIONS.
THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAS TAKEN ALLEGEDLY ALL BUT

THE FINAL STEP IN ITS COLLECTION EFFORT, THOUGH THE MURABITUN IS TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. PAPERS JAN 12 REPORT THAT A WHOLE PALESTINIAN BRIGADE HAS DEPARTED LEBANON AND FURTHER FORCES ARE LEAVING TODAY. THE ASF HAS DEPLOYED THREE BATTALIONS IN THE SHUF, TWO SYRIAN AND ONE SUDANESE. PIERRE GEMAYEL DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS TO PHALANGIST PARTY MEMBERS IN WHICH HE SAID ANY NEW POLITICAL FORMULA IN LEBANON MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE ARAB WORLD. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS IS NOW IN QATAR ON HIS AID-SEEKING MISSION. THE VISIT OF THE US TECHNICAL TEAM HAS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS PLWY. THIRTY-EIGHT SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT THE BEIRUT PORT SINCE IT RESUMED OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAVY WEAPONS COLLECTION. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEAVY ARMS COLLECTION DEADLINE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE NEWS MEDIA. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS AGAIN REAFFIRMED THAT HE WILL NOT EXTEND THE COLLECTION DEADLINE OF MIDNIGHT JAN 12, AND THE PAPERS REPORT THAT IF THE DEADLINE IS NOT MET THE ASF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAID PRESUMED LOCATIONS OF HEAVY WEAPONS. DETAILED PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE NEWLY CENSORED PRESS TO KKKSTEPS ALLEGEDLY TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS MILITIAS IN THE ASSEMBLING OF THEIR ARMS.

A. THE "LEBANESE FRONT." THE LEBANESE FRONT UNIFIED COMMAND BEGAN JAN 11 TO TURN IN TO THE LEBANESE ARMY HEAVY WEAPONS AND MILITARY VEHICLES WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY SEIZED FROM THE ARMY DURING THE CONFLICT. ARMS BELONGING TO THE

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PHALANGIST PARTY WILL BE STORED IN KISRWAN UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ASF AND UNARMED MEMBERS OF THE "LEBANESE FORCES," ACCORDING TO AL AHRAR. THE TANZIM ANNOUNCED JAN 11 THAT ALL OF ITS HEAVY WEAPONS HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE ARMY COMMAND UNDER GENERAL HANNA SAID. THE GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR, HOWEVER, HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIFIED COMMAND IN PROTEST OF THE HANDING OVER OF WEAPONS. CAMILLE CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY COLLECTED SOME OF ITS WEAPONS TWO WEEKS AGO AND THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TURNED OVER TO AND STORED UNDER ASF SUPERVISION (SEE BEIRUT 8917). A DATT SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE CHRISTIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP EXPECTS NO PROBLEMS IN ARMS COLLECTION, BUT IS APPREHENSIVE THAT THERE MAY BE MINOR INCIDENTS WITH THE PALESTINIANS.

B. NATIONAL MOVEMENT. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAS COLLECTED ITS HEAVY WEAPONS IN STAGING AREAS FOR FINAL TRANSPORTATION TO STORAGE AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE ASF. AN NM SPOKESMAN REPORTED

THAT WEAPONS COLLECTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN BEIRUT, THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SOUTH AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN THE NORTH. THE MURABITUN, ACCORDING TO AL AMAL, IS TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE, AND SO FAR HAS DELAYED IN HANDING OVER ITS WEAPONS.

C. PALESTINIANS. WHILE AL AMAL SAID JAN 11 THAT "THE PALESTINIANS ARE STILL ADHERING TO THEIR POSITION AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE HANGING ONTO THEIR WEAPONS," AL MOHARRIR REPORTED JAN 12 THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE COLLECTED THEIR HEAVY ARMS IN BEIRUT IN PREPARATION FOR TRANSPORT TO NEW LOCATIONS. PAPERS ARE ALSO ALLEGING THE WITHDRAWAL OF PALESTINIAN REGULAR FORCES BY LAND, SEA AND AIR, AND AS SAFIR SAYS A PLO REGIMENT DEPARTED LEBANON JAN 11. AL BAYRAQ CLAIMED JAN 12 THAT A WHOLE PALESTINIAN BRIGADE HAS NOW LEFT LEBANON AND "MORE WERE LEAVING TODAY." CONFIDENTIAL

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E3. SECURITY SITUATION. ASF ANNOUNCED JAN 11 THAT IT HAD COMPLETED DEPLOYMENTS IN THE SHUF, INCLUDING MUKTARA AND DAMOUR, AND IN ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT AN ASF UNIT CAME UNDER FIRE ON JAN 9 IN BATLOUN IN THE SHUF. ONE ATTACKER WAS KILLED AND TWO OTHERS
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ARRESTED. THE ASF ALSO DENIED A RUMOR THAT A CURFEW WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN BEIRUT BEGINNING JAN 12. DATT CONFIRMED THROUGH MILITARY SOURCE IN DEIR EL-KAMAR THAT THE ASF HAD MOVED THREE BATTALIONS (TWO 700-MAN SYRIAN BNS AND ONE 500-MAN SUDANESE BN) INTO THE DRUZE AREAS OF THE SHUF; THE SUDANESE ARE GENERALLY LOCATED ALONG THE COAST IN DAMOUR, BARJA AND CHIEN AND THE SYRIANS ARE IN THE MOUNTAINS IN BAAQLINE, MUKTARA, BANDRAN, MAZRAAT AL-DAHR AND JDEIDET EL-SHUF.

4. SPEECH BY GEMAYEL. IN A MAJOR ADDRESS TO PHALANGIST PARTY MEMBERS, PIERRE GEMAYEL REAFFIRMED HIS FAITH IN THE FORMULA WHICH LEBANON ADOPTED IN THE 1940'S (A REFERENCE TO THE NATIONAL COVENANT) AND SAID "90 PERCENT OF THE LEBANESE STILL BELIEVE IN IT" AND THAT ANY NEW POLITICAL FORMULA FOR LEBANON MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE ARAB WORLD. THE PUBLICATION "ARAB WORLD" SAID HIS REMARKS "MAY BE REGARDED AS A TURNING-POINT IN THE PHALANGIST CONCEPTION OF THE NEW LEBANON AND IN CURRENT EFFORTS TO FIND A FORMULA FOR COEXISTENCE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL LEBANESE." PHALANGIST PARTY LEADERS WILL MEET JAN 13 TO PREPARE A WORKING PAPER FOR A CONGRESS OF LEBANESE FRONT PARTIES TO BE HELD JAN 21-23.

5. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TRAVEL. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS VISITED BAGHDAD JAN 10, THEN BAHRAIN, AND AT LAST REPORT WAS IN QATAR AND EXPECTED TO VISIT THE UAE AND OMAN. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. REMY CHAMI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF PALNNING. INTERIOR MINISTER

SALMAN MADE A QUICK TRIP TO JORDAN JAN 11, REPORTEDLY SEEKING ASSISTANCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TWO LEBANESE AMBASSADORS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JAN 15-17 IN CAIRO: KHALIL ITANI AND MUNIR TAKIEDDIENE.

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6. PALESTINIANS. Wafa reports that a rally attended by "hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese citizens" was held Jan 9 at Beirut Arab University in memory of Mahmoud Saleh, who was assassinated in Paris last week.

7. REESTABLISHING LAW AND ORDER. A Palestinian carrying six kilograms of TNT attached to a timing device was arrested at Beirut International Airport Jan 9. The internal security forces issued a communique requesting owners of residences which remain occupied by squatters to report the circumstances to the ISF. The Ministry of Interior has begun providing the ASF with lists of stolen vehicles.

8. US TECHNICAL TEAM. Wide press play, including numerous photographs, has been given to the visit of the US technical team to Beirut. News accounts of the visit focus on team meetings with Lebanese ministers of social affairs, planning and housing as well as a number of technical experts both within and outside the government.

9. LOW-INTEREST LOANS FOR INDUSTRY. The GOL Bank for Industrial and Touristic Development has announced that it is beginning to put into effect government measures to provide low-interest loans to industries which are now capable of resuming production activity and has asked representatives of such enterprises to get in touch with them.

10. PORT OF BEIRUT. Port Director Tawile says that, since it resumed activities, no less than 38 ships have called at the Beirut port, and a total of 25,000 tons of cargo have been offloaded. Mr. Tawile also said the docks should be cleared of rubble within 90 days.

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Message Attributes

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